

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /074 W

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R 201746Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2633

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 22253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH MEDIA REACTION TO ALLEGEDLY OFFICIAL ANN-  
OUNCEMENT OF DATES AND ITINERARY OF PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE.

REF: STATE 164636

SUMMARY: FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE  
TO AUGUST 17 REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT PRESIDENT WILL VISIT  
MAJOR EUROPEAN CAPITALS LATE OCTOBER/EARLY  
NOVEMBER. ALMOST ALL NEWSPAPERS CITE U.S. OFFICIAL SOURCES FOR STORY.  
FRENCH PRESS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS SPOKESMAN'S  
AUGUST 17 STATEMENT DENYING THAT TIMING AND ITINERARY PRESIDENT'S  
EUROPEAN TRIP FIRM. END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH PRESS OVER WEEKEND AND MONDAY GAVE EXTENSIVE  
COVERAGE TO AUGUST 17 WASHINGTON-DATELINE REPORTS THAT  
PRESIDENT WILL MAKE 2-WEEK VISIT TO MAJOR EUROPEAN CAPITALS  
LATE OCTOBER/EARLY NOVEMBER. STORY IS FRONT-PAGED IN LE MONDE  
AND COMBAT, EARLY INSIDE PAGES IN OTHER MAJOR PARIS DAILIES.  
ALMOST ALL PAPERS CITED OFFICIAL SOURCES, MOST OFTEN THE  
WHITE HOUSE (FIGARO, AURORE, COMBAT) OR THE DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE (LES ECHOS, LE MONDE). MOST PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO  
INCORPORATE COMPANION STORY THAT U.S. CIRCULATING AMONG  
WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS DRAFT OF "DECLARATION OF  
PRINCIPLES" FOR NEW ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. SEVERAL PAPERS  
RELATED TIMING OF "ANNOUNCEMENT" TO PRESENT EVOLUTION  
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WATERGATE AFFAIR, SOMETIMES NOTING THAT "PREMATURE" RELEASE

CAUGHT SOME EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS BY SURPRISE. FRENCH PRESS HAS

MADE NO REFERENCE TO, OR SHOWN ANY AWARENESS OF, STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AUGUST 17 (REFTEL) DENYING THAT FIRM TIMING OR ITINERARY PRESIDENT'S EUROPEAN TRIP HAS BEEN SET. POST HAS NOTED NO TELEVISION REFERENCE TO THE STORY. SELECTED BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW.

2. FIGARO, AUGUST 18 (J. JACQUET FRANCILLON FROM WASHINGTON):  
"DECIDING THAT THE WATERGATE SCANDAL HAS LASTED LONG ENOUGH, PRESIDENT NIXON IS PREPARING HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO EUROPE... HE WON'T SPEAK OF WATERGATE ANY MORE. HE WILL SPEAK OF AFFAIRS OF STATE AND OF WORLD AFFAIRS... WELL-INFORMED SOURCES DO NOT CONCEAL THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS STILL HOPING THAT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON A REFORMULATION OF THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP CAN BE SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPE OF THE NINE, EITHER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL OR EVEN AT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS COMING VISIT TO EUROPE. THE WORDS 'NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER' USED BY KISSINGER IN HIS WALDORF ASTORIA SPEECH ARE NO LONGER USED HERE. BUT THIS IS PROBABLY JUST A TACTIC INTENDED TO ALLAY THE RETICENCES OF SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, FRANCE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE."

3. COMBAT, AUGUST 20 (EDITORIAL): "IT WAS UNDOUBTDELY PREMATURE FOR NIXON TO LET IT BE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY NIGHT THAT HIS FIFTEEN-DAY TRIP TO EUROPE WOULD TAKE PLACE LATE IN OCTOBER OR EARLY IN NOVEMBER... THE U.S. CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS AWARE THAT DIPLOMATIC PREPARATIONS FOR HIS EUROPEAN VISIT ARE NOT COMPLETED; HE HAS SENT HIS ALLIES A NEW DOCUMENT AMENDING HIS ATLANTIC PROPOSALS OF LAST SPRING, BUT THE EUROPEANS ARE STILL STUDYING THAT TEXT. FRANCE IN ANY CASE IF FIRMLY OPPOSED TO A RENOVATION OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE STRUCTURES AND TO A EUROPEAN SUMMIT TO CLIMAX NIXON'S VISIT. AS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN WITH EUROPE, IT CONTINUES TO GIVE RISE TO SKEPTICISM IN EUROPE. WHATEVER THEIR DIFFERENCES, THE EUROPEANS WILL REACT IN THE SAME MANNER TO THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TRIP WHICH APPEARS TO BE A DIVERSIONARY MANEUVER BEING TRIED OUT BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON AN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION OVERLY INTERESTED IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR. AMERICA'S ALLIES ARE CERTAINLY NOT WILLING TO SERVE MR. NIXON'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL INTERESTS. AND THEY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DISCERN THE EXPRESSION OF A  
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GENUINE NEW EUROPEAN DYNAMISM IN THE ATLANTIC SUGGESTIONS OF WASHINGTON. "THE YEAR OF EUROPE" APPEARS TOO CLEARLY TO BE JUST AN APPENDAGE TO THE 'YEAR OF CHINA AND THE USSR. 'MR. NIXON'S EUROPEAN POLICY IS NOT PROMPTED BY A SPECIFIC, SUPERIOR PURPOSE TO WHICH HIS OTHER PLANS WOULD GRAFT. EUROPE HAS FOR YEARS RANKED BEHIND SOUTHEAST ASIA. EVEN BEFORE THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT WAS ENDED, EUROPE WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE USSR AMONG AMERICAN PRIORITIES. NIXON IS NOT SUCCEEDING IN DISGUISSING THE SECONDARY ROLE HE ASSIGNE

EUROPE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE HE MUST ATTACH TO THE DIALOGUE  
WITH MOSCOW. THE CONVERSATIONS HE WILL HAVE IN PARIS AND ELSEWHERE  
TOW MONTHS FROM NOW WILL THUS BE DOMINATED BY THE SUSPICION THAT  
HE IS TRYING TO  
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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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R 201745Z AUG 73  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634  
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MOULD ATLANTIC RELATIONS TO SUIT THE PROMISES HE MADE TO  
BREZHNEV. THE SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT WILL WEIGH HEAVILY ON NIXON'S  
EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS: HIS ATLANTIC POLICY IS JUST THE CODA OF  
THE TUNE HE IS GRINDING OUT FOR THE KREMLIN...IN ITS HASTE TO WIN  
OVER COMMUNIST HEARTS, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A LOT  
OF BLUNDERS ABOUT WHICH, JAPAN FIRST, AND THE EUROPEAN ALLIES  
NEXT, HAVE NOT GOTTEN OVER THEIR INDIGNATION. KISSINGER, WHO  
IS PRESENTED AS A SPIRITUAL HEIR OF METTERNICH, MOREOVER APPEARS  
TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN VIEWPOINT.  
IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT WASHINGTON IS STILL INCLUDING FRANCE  
IN THE CATEGORY OF NUISANCES, WITHOUT MAKING AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND  
HER DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS. MR. KISSINGER WILL COME TO EUROPE NEXT  
MONTH TO TRY TO BECOME IMBUED WITH THE OPPOSITION'S VIEWPOINT.  
HE THUS HAS A LONG WAY TO GO. WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE  
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO CHRISTEN 1974 'THE YEAR OF EUROPE'?"

4. FRANCE-SOIR, AUGUST 20(J.J. SIMONNEAU): "THE CESSATION  
OF US BOMBINGS IN CAMBODIA HAVING OFFICIALLY ENDED AMERICAN  
INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA, AND HIS TV SPEECH WEDNESDAY HAVING,  
IN HIS EYES, RECONCILED HIM WITH PUBLIC OPINION, PRESIDENT NIXON  
FEELS HE HAS A FREE HAND TO CONCENTRATE AGAIN ON MAJOR  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS... AS EARLY AS FRIDAY, WASHINGTON CONFIRMED

THAT NIXON WILL VISIT WESTERN EUROPE, PROBABLY IN NOVEMBER.  
BUT IT WAS SPECIFIED THAT HIS TRIP--WHICH IS TO LAST FOR ABOUT  
TWO WEEKS WITH STOPOVERS IN PARIS, LONDON, BONN, ROME, BRUSSELS  
AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHER CAPIALS-- MIGHT BE DELAYED TO PERMIT  
AN AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED ON THE 'NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER' HE  
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IS EXPECTING TO SIGN WITH HIS EUROPEAN ALLIES.THIS PROJECT,  
LAUNCHED BY KISSINGER LAST APRIL, HAD GIVEN RISE TO SOME EMOTION.  
AS A MATTER OF FACT, KISSINGER HAD CONTRASTED THE 'REGIONAL'  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF WESTERN EUROPE WITH THE 'WORLD-WIDE'  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND HE HAS EMPHATICALLY  
LINKED AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE WITH EUROPEAN FLEXIBILITY TOWARD  
US ECONOMIC INTERESTS. KISSINGER HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED TO DISPEL  
THESE ALARMS. HE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURNISH OTHER DETAILS  
WHEN HE COMES TO BRUSSELS ON A SCOUTING MISSION NEXT MONTH.  
ANYWAY, THE US PRESIDENT WANTS TO ESTABLISH NEW  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH WESTERN EUROPE BEFORE PURSUING THE DIALOGUE  
WITH MOSCOW, CURRENTLY THE SOURCE OF ALARMING PIECES OF NEWS."

5. AURORE, AUGUST 18, 1973: "THE WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMED YESTERDAY  
THAT AT THE END OF OCTOBER AND THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER PRESIDENT  
NIXON WILL MAKE A TOUR OF THE PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN CAPITALS  
INCLUDING PARIS, LONDON, BONN, ROME AND BRUSSELS. THE COOL  
REACTION OF THE EUROPEANS TO THE PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE THE ATLANTIC  
ALLIANCE, PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR HENRY KISSINGER,  
HAD LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT RIPE AND THAT  
RICHARD NIXON WOULD HAVE TO POSTPONE THIS 'YEAR OF EUROPE'  
THAT HE HAD PROCLAIMED IN LAUNCHING HIS SECOND PRESIDENTIAL TERM.  
ALL THE MORE SO SINCE PARIS HAS DONE EVERYTING TO PREVENT THE  
MULTILATERAL SUMMIT MEETING WHICH IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S EYES WAS  
TO SOLEMNLY SEAL THE NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER. THE ELYSEE, WHICH  
SEES IN THIS A TACTIC BY WASHINGTON TO MUFFLE THE VOICE OF  
EUROPE AT A TIME WHEN AMERICAN AND RUSSIANS ARE DECIDING BILA-  
TERALLY THE FATE OF THE WORLD, HAS EVEN TRIED TO PREVENT  
ITS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PARTNERS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE DRAWING  
UP OF A COMMON DECLARATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.  
DESPITE THAT, MR. NIXON HAS DECIDED TO GO FORWARD... STRENGTHENED  
BY THE SUPPORT OF GERMANY, WHICH IS CONTRIBUTING ACTIVELY TO  
THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES  
AND PERSUADED THAT THE OTHER ALLIES WOULD NOT WANT TO CONFRONT  
THE U.S. DIRECTLY AND WILL THUS TEMPER THE INTRANSIGENCE  
OF FRANCE, MR. NIXON HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE NOTHING IN HIS  
INITIAL PLANS."STONE

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## Message Attributes

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